Racial and Ethnic Mix of the Dentist Workforce in the U.S.

**DISTRIBUTION OF DENTIST WORKFORCE, BY RACE**

- 2005:
  - Black: 0.4%
  - Hispanic: 4.2%
  - Asian: 4.2%
  - White: 79.8%
  - Other: 11.8%

- 2010:
  - Black: 0.5%
  - Hispanic: 4.8%
  - Asian: 4.7%
  - White: 77.2%
  - Other: 13.6%

- 2015:
  - Black: 1.0%
  - Hispanic: 5.2%
  - Asian: 5.3%
  - White: 74.2%
  - Other: 15.7%

- 2020:
  - Black: 2.2%
  - Hispanic: 5.9%
  - Asian: 5.6%
  - White: 70.2%
  - Other: 18.0%

**DISTRIBUTION OF U.S. POPULATION, BY RACE**

- 2005:
  - Black: 14.4%
  - Hispanic: 12.2%
  - Asian: 2.2%
  - White: 67.0%
  - Other: 4.2%

- 2010:
  - Black: 12.3%
  - Hispanic: 16.4%
  - Asian: 4.7%
  - White: 63.7%
  - Other: 4.0%

- 2015:
  - Black: 12.3%
  - Hispanic: 17.6%
  - Asian: 5.3%
  - White: 61.5%
  - Other: 3.2%

- 2020:
  - Black: 12.4%
  - Hispanic: 18.4%
  - Asian: 5.6%
  - White: 60.0%
  - Other: 3.6%

**The Racial Mix of the Dentist Workforce Does Not Reflect the U.S. Population.** Black and Hispanic dentists are significantly underrepresented while Asian dentists are significantly overrepresented.

**Over Time, the Dentist Workforce Has Diversified.** But almost all of the diversification is accounted for by more Asian dentists. The share of dentists who are Black, for example, has not changed at all.

**Research Indicates Some Career Choices Are Influenced by Race.** For example, Black dentists are more likely to participate in Medicaid than White dentists, all else equal.

**43%** of U.S. Dentists participate in Medicaid or CHIP for child dental services.

Source: ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of data from the ADA masterfile, U.S. Census Bureau, and American Dental Education Association.

For more information, visit ADA.org/HPI or contact the Health Policy Institute at hpi@ada.org.